



The Old Ironsides Report

28 June 2003

Soldiers learn, practice non-lethal crowd control techniques

Story and Photos by Sgt. Mark Bell, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers from Task Force 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, have been refining their non-lethal, crowd-control tactics.

According to Lt. Col. Randy Lace, TF 1-35 commander, a recently scheduled training exercise involving nearly 100 1st Armored Division soldiers was developed to ensure better safety for soldiers and civilians.

"We want our soldiers to be prepared and trained to handle any situation at the gate," said Lace. "The training we are doing here is incorporating non-lethal means of security at this checkpoint.

Using soldiers from other units acting as aggressive protestors, TF 1-35 soldiers were able to practice fixing bayonets in a hostile-crowd environment, using shields and batons to hold back large crowds and how to use water trucks to deter violent protests.

"I saw a lot of scared faces with our soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Dee Davila, 40, from Harlingen, Texas, a member of the aggressor team. "We are able to point out to our soldiers their weaknesses now, so they will be more prepared to handle the real riots."

Lace said soldiers would continue practicing their newly learned techniques until they understand and quickly perform to standard.

"We're not going to leave until we get it right," Lace said after the first exercise. "It is a scheduled training exercise and will continue to be a scheduled training event until every soldier has the confidence in himself and herself to do the job right."

Soldiers spent several days learning unique non-lethal means to protect themselves and the Iraqi people, Lace said. At their disposal, soldiers have an assortment of non-lethal weapons such as bean bags that can be shot out of their grenade launchers and shotguns to disable violent protestors.

"We will continue to train, but we'll be doing it at different sites," he said. "This is our biggest site, and it's the only place that has been violent."

"We would like to use all non-lethal means of



Soldiers practice non-lethal crowd control techniques during a recent training session. Soldiers are learning how control crowds and defuse potentially violent situations.

detering riots and large gatherings around our perimeter," said Lace.

Lace said his goals for the training event are to certify his soldiers for the potentially dangerous gate duty and to truly be ready with non-lethal force.

He said, during a recent incident, soldiers from TF 1-35 fired warning shots at a hostile gathering of Iraqi protestors.

Trainers have used lessons learned from earlier protests to improve the training and the site, he said.

"We've improved this checkpoint with concertina wire, and trying to get a greater separation between ourselves and the protestors," Lace said. "We are trying to learn to not escalate. We have reports that weapons are being carried during some protests – trying to get us to fire on them."

Through non-lethal, crowd-control training, Lace said the end result would be both soldiers and protestors going to bed each night alive.

"We don't want to use lethal force, but we will and it is a very last resort to protect our soldiers and everyone else here," Lace said.

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 109F/43C

Low: 77F/25C



NEWS

Israel, Palestinians OK Gaza Pullback

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli and Palestinian security officials agreed in principle Friday on the terms of an Israeli pullback from parts of the Gaza Strip. The progress on Israeli withdrawal, coupled with an agreement by militant Islamic groups to temporarily cease attacks on Israelis, provides a boost to a U.S.-backed peace plan, the "road map" to Palestinian statehood by 2005.

After 12 Hours, Do-Not-Call Has 370,000

WASHINGTON (AP) - The public's simmering frustration with telemarketers erupted Friday as people hurried to sign up for a new national do-not-call list, registering about 370,000 telephone numbers in the program's first 12 hours. Registration opened just after midnight. As of noon Friday, the program's Web site was being visited 1,000 times every second, according to the Federal Trade Commission, which operates the registry.

Bush: Thurmond Led 'Extraordinary Life'

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush offered condolences Friday to the family of Strom Thurmond, saying the late Republican senator had "led an extraordinary life." "He will be missed," Bush said in a statement noting Thurmond's death on Thursday at age 100.

Schwarzenegger Tests Political Waters

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) - Arnold Schwarzenegger refuses to terminate rumors of a run for governor while promoting his latest movie, joking that: "You haven't seen special effects like this since the California state budget."

Schwarzenegger's advisers have said he will decide whether to run after the July 2 release of his movie and only if it becomes clear that an effort under way to recall Gov. Gray Davis will qualify for the ballot.

Chaplain's thought for the day:

"We became accomplished cooks, combining C-rations with sauces sent from home. We sealed envelopes, whose glue became useless from the humidity, with peach jam. We heated meals with fuel made from peanut butter and insect repellent. We buoyed our morale by describing our favorite meal, favorite car, or favorite girl back home. We lived for letters and 'care packages' from the U.S."

--2LT Tim Lickness, 101st ABN
Vietnam, 1968

"Endure hardship with us like a good soldier..."

2- Timothy 2:3

SPORTS

Watson's Field Goals' Bring 3-Shot Lead

By RUSTY MILLER, AP Sports Writer

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) -- When Tom Watson was a kid in Kansas City, his dad always called it a "field goal" when a long putt went in.

In the first round of the U.S. Senior Open, Watson split the uprights again and again.

With memories from his surprising performance at Olympia Fields still vivid, Watson shot a 5-under-par 66 on Thursday to take a three-stroke lead in the rain-suspended opening round of the U.S. Senior Open at Inverness Club.

Watson won the Senior PGA Championship in 2001.

A thunderstorm suspended play with 36 of the 156 players still on the course. The first round will be completed Friday morning.

Bruce Lietzke was alone in second after a 69. Mike McCullough and J.C. Snead were the only other players to break par, each with a 70. The top four players all went off early in the morning.

And in other news:

Color Episodes of '60s 'Honeymooners' Return

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Cue the lush strains of Jackie Gleason's theme song "Melancholy Serenade." Enter the June Taylor Dancers, festooned in feathers and sequins.

From the fun and sun city Miami Beach, a version of Jackie Gleason's "The Honeymooners" not seen in more than 30 years is returning to television.

Starting on Saturday, the fledgling cable channel GoodLife TV Network will broadcast the 42 "Honeymooners" episodes originally presented in color as part of "The Jackie Gleason Show" that aired during the 1960s on CBS.

Riding a wave of Baby Boomer nostalgia for old television shows, the 42 color shows are taking their place in TV afterlife beside two older black-and-white iterations of the landmark comedy -- 39 episodes that ran as a stand-alone sitcom in the 1950s and a collection of 68 segments taken from Gleason's old variety hour earlier that decade.

The color "Honeymooners," which last aired as a set of reruns in 1971, star Gleason reprising his signature role as loudmouth bus driver Ralph Kramden and Art Carney returning as his bumbling but affable sidekick, sewer worker Ed Norton.

"The Honeymooners" began in 1951 as a recurring comedy sketch within the Gleason-hosted "Cavalcade of the Stars," which later became "The Jackie Gleason Show."

In 1955-56, CBS aired 39 episodes of "The Honeymooners" as separate series, but the show failed to catch on and was pulled after a single season, though it lives on as a TV classic in syndication.